

091154Z Nov 01

CONFIDENTIAL PTO8826

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ACTION AF-00

INFO LOG-00	COR-01	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	ACQ-00
CIAE-00	INL-00	USNW-00	DODE-00	WHA-00	DS-00	EAP-00
EB-00	EUR-00	FBIE-00	VC-00	FSI-00	TEDE-00	INR-00
IO-00	JUSE-00	L-00	VCE-00	NEA-00	DCP-01	NSAE-00
OIC-02	OIG-03	IRM-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	SA-00	R-00
EPAE-00	IIP-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00	DSCC-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00
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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0251  
INFO NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY ABUJA  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 003356

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NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR JENDAYI FRAZER

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU  
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y : (TEXT R/H MARGIN)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/31/11  
TAGS: PGOV PREL PHUM ZI  
SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE MOVES TO PROHIBIT INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC  
ELECTION MONITORS

REF: STATE 195461

CLASSIFIED BY POLITICAL SECTION CHIEF MATT HARRINGTON.  
REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1.(U) MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL, AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS PATRICK CHINAMASA ANNOUNCED ON NOVEMBER 6 THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO AMEND THE ELECTORAL ACT TO GIVE THE PRESIDENTIALLY-APPOINTED ELECTORAL SUPERVISORY COMMISSION (ESC) EXPLICIT RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECRUITMENT, TRAINING, AND DEPLOYMENT OF ELECTION MONITORS. THE ESC HAS OVERSEEN THE ACCREDITATION OF DOMESTIC MONITORS AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS IN THE PAST, BUT THIS HAS BEEN AN AD HOC ARRANGEMENT, AS NEITHER THE CONSTITUTION NOR THE ELECTORAL ACT CURRENTLY CONTAINS REFERENCES TO ELECTION MONITORS. THE AMENDMENT, EXPECTED TO BE TABLED ONCE PARLIAMENT RECONVENES ON NOVEMBER 20, WILL REQUIRE THE ESC TO DRAW DOMESTIC MONITORS EXCLUSIVELY FROM THE RANKS OF CIVIL SERVANTS. IN THE JUNE 2000 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, MOST OF THE MORE THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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12. (U) IN MORE BELLICOSE PUBLIC REMARKS, INFORMATION MINISTER JONATHAN MOYO DISMISSED CONCERNs THAT THE GOZ MOVE WOULD PREVENT CIVIL SOCIETY FROM MONITORING THE ELECTIONS. CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS, HE SAID, HAVE NO INHERENT RIGHT TO SERVE AS MONITORS, AS THEY ARE "DONOR CREATED AND HAVE NO CONSTITUTIONAL STANDING." MOYO LATER CLARIFIED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ELECTION MONITORS AND ELECTION OBSERVERS. THE FORMER, HE SAID, SUPERVISE ELECTIONS AND HAVE THE RIGHT TO POINT OUT AND CORRECT IRREGULARITIES THAT MIGHT OCCUR DURING VOTING, AND THEY SHOULD BE DRAWN FROM A DOMESTIC POOL

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REACTIONS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY

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13. (C) EILEEN SAWYER, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE LEGAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION (LRF), A WELL-RESPECTED LEGAL RIGHTS NGO, CRITICIZED THE GOZ MOVE AS A CLEAR EFFORT TO PROHIBIT INDEPENDENT MONITORS. SHE NOTED THAT THE ESC IS A PARTISAN BODY WHICH DOES NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES (ONLY TWO OF THE FIVE SEATS ON THE COMMISSION ARE CURRENTLY FILLED, FOR INSTANCE) TO OVERSEE THIS EFFORT. ACCORDING TO SAWYER, CIVIL SERVANTS PREDOMINANTLY TEACHERS, HAVE BEEN USED AS MONITORS IN PAST ELECTIONS, BUT THE GOZ NOW SUSPECTS THAT MOST TEACHERS HARBOR SYMPATHIES FOR THE OPPOSITION MDC. AS A RESULT, THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOW TAKE GREAT CARE TO ENSURE THAT MONITORS ARE DRAWN FROM A POOL OF SYMPATHETIC "CIVIL SERVANTS," INCLUDING WAR VETERANS, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION (CIO) AGENTS, AND UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN A RECENTLY-INAUGURATED NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM THE LRF'S CHIEF LEGAL ADVISOR HAS DETERMINED THAT THE STEPS ANNOUNCED BY CHINAMASA WOULD NOT VIOLATE THE CONSTITUTION OR THE ELECTORAL ACT.

ZESN

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COMMENT

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15. (C) IT IS DIFFICULT TO OFFER DEFINITIVE CONCLUSIONS AND ANALYSES UNTIL WE SEE THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, BUT IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO PREVENT MONITORS IT PERCEIVES AS ANTI-ZANU-PF FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. AS THE COMMENTS BY CHINAMASA AND MOYO REVEAL, SENIOR GOZ OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT A MAJORITY OF LOCAL NGO'S ARE FRONT ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF WESTERN COUNTRIES, AND ARE WORKING TO ENSURE AN MDC VICTORY IN NEXT YEAR'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. AS A RESULT, THE GOVERNMENT WILL ATTEMPT TO PUT IN PLACE MONITOR SYMPATHETIC TO IT. ANOTHER EQUALLY LIKELY POSSIBILITY, IN OUR VIEW, IS THAT THE ESC SIMPLY WILL BE UNABLE TO RECRUIT,  
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SULLIVAN

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